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P 051259Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5716
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 7884
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 1962
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 2491
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY 2392
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1455
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 6648
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAWJC/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/2016 \
TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [UZ](#)
SUBJECT: (S) MAFIA BOSS FIXES GOU TENDERS AND JOBS \

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REF: TASHKENT 465 \

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TASHKENT 00000902 001.2 OF 002 \

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Classified By: AMB. JON R. PURNELL, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D) \

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¶1. (S) Summary: A well connected Embassy contact described a \
mafia chieftain's role in helping businessmen to secure GOU \
tenders and job applicants to "buy" government jobs. Crime \
boss Salim Abduvaliyev puts bidders for tenders in touch with \
an Iranian businessman holding British citizenship, who \
submits the paperwork to First Daughter Gulnora Karimova for \
approval. Salim works with the Deputy Minister of Internal \
Affairs responsible for personnel issues to arrange \
government jobs, agreeing on a price and then adding his own \
fee before selling the position. Salim has reportedly sold a \
wide range of Government positions, including regional Hokim, \
police chief, and Ministry of Internal Affairs jobs. A \
Presidential Adviser and a former Minister of the Interior \
also reportedly worked closely with Salim on job placement \
transactions. End summary. \

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¶2. (S) An Embassy contact with close connections to the \
families of senior GOU officials, and distantly related to \
mafia chieftain Salim Abduvaliyev (reftel), told Poloff that \
Salim often serves as a middleman in fixing GOU tenders and \
helping applicants obtain government jobs. Foreign investors \
can "win" GOU tenders by arranging them through Salim, who \
charges a percentage of revenues as a fee. Many job \
applicants have approached the contact, a close friend of \

Salim's wife, Shahlo, asking for introductions to Salim in \ order to "purchase" a GOU job. (Note: Both public and \ private sector jobs are routinely "bought" in Uzbekistan. \ End note.) \

CONTRACT AND TENDER GRAFT \

13. (S) According to the contact, Salim locates foreign and \ other investors interested in GOU tenders, putting them in \ touch with an Iranian businessman holding British \ citizenship. The Iranian prepares the paperwork, submitting \ the tender to First Daughter Gulnora Karimova for approval. \ (Note: According to the contact, former Deputy PM Dilbar \ Gulomova's son works for this Iranian. End note.) Tenders \ arranged through this process reportedly include the Dutch \ Gemka (ph) firm's railway investment in Bukhara, which \ required paying Salim a \$700,000 fee, a Swiss/Israeli \ company's water project in the Tashkent region, and a Korean \ company's large-scale contract to provide computers to \ schools. \

GOU JOBS FOR SALE! \

14. (S) A man named "Abror hoja" brings job applicants to \ Salim, who discusses the price of the purchase and \ facilitates the transaction. The contact said that Salim has \ sold a wide range of government positions, including regional \ Hokim, regional police chief, and high and mid-ranking jobs \ at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Salim works closely \ with Tursinkhan Hudaibergenov, Deputy Minister of Internal \ Affairs for personnel issues, to facilitate GOU job \ placements. Salim agrees on a price with Hudaibergenov, \ before adding his own fee, and selling the position at the \ higher price. (Note: The contact said that Salim closely \ cooperated in the past on such job purchase transactions with \ State Adviser to the President Ismail Jurabekov, and former \ Minister of Interior Zokir Almatov. End note.) \

15. (S) In one example of Salim's sway over GOU personnel \ decisions, a regional mayor appealed to him for help \ retaining his job after he came under pressure to resign. \ The wife of Maksim Teshebaev, the mayor of Tashkent's \ region's Orta Chirchik district, approached Salim's wife \ asking for Salim's support. For the right price, Salim \ promised that Teshebaev would be able to retain his job. \ According to the contact, Salim instructed Teshebaev to make \ a payment to his brother, Azamjon Abduvaliyev, in order to \ retain the job. But after the payment was made, Salim \ reportedly mocked the amount of money Teshebaev offered, \

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saying he "couldn't eat a meal" for that amount. \

16. (S) Comment: Salim's role in securing GOU tenders and jobs \ sheds further light on the close connections between \ organized crime and the GOU (reftel). Corruption is rampant \ in the GOU. Tenders and government positions can be fairly \ easily secured by paying the right amount of money to the \ appropriate individual, leading to a situation in which \ unqualified individuals have every incentive to engage in \ further corrupt activity to pay off the large debts they \ usually incur making down payments on the jobs. \

PURNELL \